

State Representative
Bob Hasegawa

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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425 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
Phone: 360.786.7862

Toll-free Hotline: 800.562.6000

Hearing Impaired (TTY):
800.635.9993

E-mail:
hasegawa.bob@leg.wa.gov

Website:
<http://www.housedemocrats.leg.wa.gov/members/hasegawa/>

Committees:
Finance, Vice Chair
Capital Budget
Higher Education

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State Representative
Bob Hasegawa (D-Seattle)



Working for the 11th Legislative District
And a Better Washington

Reporting from the Dome

Website: <http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/hasegawa>

Winter 2007

Dear friends,

We're back in Olympia for another legislative session and it's a great honor to represent you again in the Washington State House of Representatives.

Every odd numbered year we have a "long" (105 day) session where one of our main tasks is to write a two-year budget. We're working hard to craft a responsible and balanced budget that provides for needed investments in education, health care, social services and economic development issues that you elected me to work on.

My committee assignments will allow me to be your voice in critical matters that affect our daily lives. As the Vice Chair of the **Finance Committee** (elected to this position by my colleagues) I'll look at the fairness and adequacy of our tax structure. And in the **Capital Budget Committee** I'll make sure our district gets funding for the economic expansion happening in our area. Finally, as a member of the Higher Education Committee I want to make sure everyone has equal access to quality post-secondary educational opportunities. I'll also be pushing for financial aid for non-traditional students who have to juggle work, family, childcare and school.

I want my work in the Capitol to reflect our community's concerns. We're facing pressing issues that must get resolved and I'm the kind of guy who thinks the sooner, the better. We have to create family wage jobs, find a solution to our failing education system, ensure we give children a better future, and make health care more affordable.

I'm sticking to these priorities because these are the cornerstones of a strong and vibrant community, and I feel honored to advocate on behalf of these critical issues that touch the daily lives of everyone in our diverse 11th District.

Please stay in touch by calling, e-mailing, or writing to me, or my **Legislative Assistant Cely Lucuab**, about the issues that concern you. Thank you for your continued interest and involvement in our state government.

Sincerely,



Sign up for my e-memo!



Send me an e-mail (hasegawa.bob@leg.wa.gov) so I can add you to my list and you'll receive periodic legislative news from my computer to yours. It will keep you informed about everything that's happening under the dome. You can unsubscribe at any time and your e-mail address will not be distributed to anyone else.

★ TOWN HALL MEETING ★ SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2007

Join Rep. Zack Hudgins and me to discuss your concerns and ideas on how to make our community a better place to live, work and raise a family.

10 a.m. – 12 noon

Liquor Board Distribution Center
4401 E. Marginal Way S.
Seattle, WA 98134



More paths to success

The more educated people are, the better chances they'll have at hitting the success jackpot. So we must make smart investments in our education system. I have asked businesses across the state what their top priority is – their answer is consistent, an educated workforce.

I support strong reforms to give every child a great education, from kindergarten through high school – and to make sure that every high school graduate has a chance to earn a college degree.



Making room: creating possibilities

We have thousands of good students who graduate from high school with good grades, but many can't get a college degree because our state doesn't have enough room for them.

I support making more space for those good students, because they deserve a shot. The governor's budget creates room for 8,300 more college students, including 3,300 in high-demand fields like nursing and engineering.

Investing in people

I'm sponsoring House Bill 1179, which addresses the struggles of many working students. We all know that more folks than ever are being squeezed out of earning a college degree. But the state can help with that.

Many needy students are working one or several jobs, or are single parents who are unable to attend classes full-time. I don't believe they should be denied the state grants that are available to full-time students.

Students who are enrolled for at least three quarter credits could qualify for a state need grant under my bill. Financial need would be determined by how much a student's family is able to contribute to his or her education. And the grants will be available to eligible students for up to five years.

Aviation High School

I'm also working on getting funding for the Aviation High School that will be housed at the Museum of Flight.



The Duwamish Industrial Center

I'm working hard on getting funds for the Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center, also known as the Duwamish Industrial Center, which is associated with South Seattle Community College.

The Center is a modern one-stop worker training, business, economic development, small business development, and employment support services center that will help create and support family wage jobs, as well as businesses in the south central King County area. It also houses several apprenticeship training programs.



Investing in this Center will make our industrial base more competitive in the world market and open up much needed opportunities for residents and small businesses in our community.

It's time to get simple (majority, that is)

It should be simple to allow local school levies 50 percent plus one vote to pass. But for seventy-five years school districts have required a supermajority, that is, 60 percent. To me it's a question of fairness. If a simple majority is good enough to pick elected officials, initiatives, referenda and a wide spectrum of issues, shouldn't it also be good enough for school levies?

Gov. Chris Gregoire and Superintendent of Public Instruction, Terry Bergeson endorse the measure, and it's also backed by the Washington Education Association, as well as representatives of school boards, principals and administrators, and the state Parent-Teacher Association.



The Environment: making it a real priority

The community spoke and we listened. When it comes to the environment, we have to think not only of our own well-being but that of future generations also. That's why this session we're working on four key issues to improve the environmental conditions in our state: Puget Sound clean-up; clean-energy to quit our addiction to oil-based energy; ban toxic flame retardants in televisions, computers and residential upholstered furniture; and get more funds to purchase parks and open space.

Going paperless

Would you rather receive future newsletters in electronic form? If you'd like to save on postage and paper, let me know via e-mail (hasegawa.bob@leg.wa.gov) so I can add you to our e-newsletter list and remove you from the snail mail records.

Health Care: reforming for a better future

When 72,500 children are not insured and 520,000 adults in our state don't have coverage – including many full-time workers and small business owners, we need to make some urgent reforms to our health care system.



Cover every kid by 2010

In 2005, we passed a bill making it our goal to cover every child in Washington by 2010. This year I'm supporting the next step in meeting that goal. The new legislation will, among other things, make it easier

to get health care for children; promote better health, not just better coverage; ensure better nutrition in schools; and improve health care every year.

Switch jobs and take your coverage along

Some people who are currently employed and insured are lucky and love their jobs, or feel trapped because they fear if they switch jobs they may lose their coverage. And then there are many workers who are uninsured because they can't afford the purchase of health coverage on their own.

So this year we're working on a public-private marketplace for health care.

The idea is to pool together the power of numbers to give everybody — workers, individuals and small business owners — a better deal for less than they're paying today. In this reform all the insurers could sell their plans in the marketplace; all the health plans would be portable so families wouldn't lose coverage if they switch jobs; and the large pool of people would help make the plans affordable.

It's a great idea, and health care costs would go down – now wouldn't that be nice for a change?



Other interesting bills

Among many other bills I'm sponsoring, here is a couple I think you may find interesting:

- **HB1510** - Community reinvestment of oil windfall profits. This bill would recapture some of the hugely grotesque and ongoing record profits made by the parent oil companies, and reinvest that money back into our community.
- **HB1511** - relating to business and occupation taxation of investment income. This bill would eliminate a major tax loophole for corporations.

You can track these and other bills by going to www.leg.wa.gov where you can surf and look into everything we're doing under the Capitol dome.

I'll report more to you as the session progresses. You can also look for my video updates on Public Access Channel 72 or on my website at <http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/hasegawa/> where you'll find current information on issues that matter to our community. I hope to see you at our mid-session Town Hall Meeting on March 17th.